

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission  
Special Meeting  
February 14, 2008  
Fish and Game Headquarters  
Boise, Idaho**

Present in the Trophy Room: Director Groen, Deputy Director Virgil Moore; Dallas Burkhalter, Deputy Attorney General; Sharon Kiefer, Legislative Liaison; and Mary Boyer, Executive Assistant; Jim Unsworth, Chief, Wildlife; Mike Keckler, Chief, Communications; Jon Heggen, Chief, Enforcement; Brian Oakey, Deputy Director, Department of Agriculture; Rocky Barker, Idaho Statesman; FNAWS members and other public.

Participating from Region 1, Mark Taylor; Region 2, Dave Parrish; Kathleen Turner, Woodriver Journal; Region 2, Dave Cadwallader and Keith Lawrence, Nez Perce Tribe.

A special meeting of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission was held by telephone conference. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Wheeler with Commissioners Barowsky, Wright, Power, McDermott and Trevey participating.

**LEGISLATION**

**Legislative Update**

Sharon Kiefer gave a brief update on legislative bills. She noted that SB 1381 -- uniform laws regulating firearms has been withdrawn. The Department will monitor SB 1391 -- Domestic Cervidae Council (Appendix 41, Exhibit 21).

**Additional Bill Discussion:**

RS17919 – Off-road vehicles was held in committee and will not be printed.

RS17773 – Trapping/Time Check will not be printed.

SB 1423 – Amends duties of State Board of Land Commissioners. This bill would remove some duties from the State Land Commission and be assigned to Parks and Recreation Board, information only.

House Joint Memorial 10 Wild and Scenic Rivers – prohibits the U. S. Forest Service from interfering, pursuant to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, with the legitimate use by private landowners engaged in light ranching and farming operations. This bill has been printed.

RS17705 which would put on the ballot a constitutional amendment on the right to hunt, fish, trap and harvest. Ms. Kiefer noted that this bill has been printed and will send update on bill number. Staff will conduct an in-depth review of this bill.

Previously discussed Bill Update:

HB515 -- State outdoor shooting range act. Anticipates a hearing next week in the House Resources and Conservation Committee.

HB467 Ranch, Farm and Forest Protection Act creating a state income tax credit for voluntary conservation easement. A hearing will be scheduled and the Department will testify in support of this bill.

Senate Bills 1280, 1281, 1286, 1295, 1313, 1312 and 1285 have not had a bill hearing at this time.

HB 459 – Revises procedures for negotiated rulemaking has been pulled and will be given a new RS number.

Senate Bills 1373 and 1374 are both on the 3<sup>rd</sup> reading on the Senate floor today.

HB 472 – Changes two- pole permit so that unlicensed kids can get a two-pole permit. This bill sits and is waiting for a hearing date. The Department will testify in support.

Other Legislative Action:

Ms. Kiefer stated that Commissioners Cameron Wheeler and Fred Trevey were confirmed last week.

JFAC will create a budget resolution for the Department on the 29<sup>th</sup> of February.

Staff is working with Senator Schroeder for a grizzly bear presentation to be given February 25<sup>th</sup> at the Senate Resource Committee meeting. This presentation will be similar to the presentation given on wolves.

## **REPORT**

### **Interim Strategy for Managing Separation Between Bighorn Sheep and Domestic Sheep in Idaho**

Dr. Unsworth provided a report on the Interim Strategy. A new draft was provided to Commissioners (Appendix 41, Exhibit 22). Dr. Unsworth noted that the Interim Strategy is a document for this spring to get the Department talking with permittees and land management agencies to facilitate our actions for this spring to get folks onto their grazing allotments and to minimize any interaction with bighorn sheep.

This Interim Strategy was written by Idaho Department of Fish and Game with input from Idaho Department of Agriculture. The working group's role was advisory to this strategy. The working group will continue meeting and their next scheduled meeting is March 18<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Unsworth stated that a statewide policy will be built on a collaborative process. The working group information will be incorporated into a bighorn species management plan. Director Groen noted that this process would allow for public comment and discussion and Commission action.

Director Groen stated that “he is encouraged that this discussion is moving away from an emotional approach to a more reasoned approach.”

**08-23 Commissioner Trevey moved and Commissioner Power seconded a motion TO ADOPT THIS STRATEGY AS AN INTERIM STRATEGY PENDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF FULL PLAN FOR THE BIGHORN SHEEP. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.**

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **Adjournment**

The Commission meeting adjourned at 8:30 a.m.

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Cameron Wheeler  
Chairman

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Cal Groen  
Secretary